

Stopping the Cycle of Alcohol Abuse

Most of the major preventable medical and social problems confronting Alaska are tied to the abuse of alcohol. Alaska ranks first among all states in alcohol mortality. Alaska has the world's highest incidence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), a totally preventable condition. Alcohol plays a part in most domestic violence incidents and Alaska's high rates of accidental deaths.

Nearly 60,000 Alaskans misuse, or are addicted to alcohol. Alcohol misuse was involved in 85% of Alaska's incarcerations. In Anchorage alone, 83% of child abuse, 59% of the domestic violence cases, 60% of fire injuries, 55% of sexual assaults, and 55% of motor vehicle fatalities are alcohol-related.

Building upon last year's Public Safety and Alcohol initiative, Governor Knowles' FY2003 budget adds \$4.7 million in general funds and \$ 300,000 in Mental Health Trust funds to stop the alcohol abuse cycle by increasing treatment opportunities and the enforcement of liquor license laws. (In addition, there is \$2.6 million in the Governor's *Smart Start / Strong Future* initiative to expand alcohol treatment and supervision programs for juveniles and adults with children.)

Reduce Alcohol Treatment Waitlists

Statewide Dual Diagnosis Treatment: \$1.4 million state funds

Of the 143 adults waiting for residential mental health or substance abuse treatment, 40% need both, i.e. dual diagnosis services. Some of the inmates discharged from Department of Corrections facilities need dual diagnosis treatment as well.

Outpatient Treatment Funding for Small Communities: \$1.1 million state funds

Many small Alaskan communities are not able to support local substance abuse programs. This \$1.1 million will bring 13 communities to a minimum funding level of \$150,000. With treatment available in their own communities, residents will be able to stay at home and receive the treatment they need, without having to go to another community.

Adult Residential Alcohol Treatment: \$471,800 state funds

On current wait lists, there are 57 adults who need short-term treatment and 21 who need long-term treatment beds. This funding would eliminate the wait lists for these two services.

Restore Alcohol Safety Action Programs

Stabilize existing ASAP Programs: \$470,000 state funds

The Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP) helps misdemeanor defendants get substance abuse education or treatment programs ordered by the court. To help meet the increased court orders for education and treatment, these funds would partially restore the level of ASAP monitoring done by the programs in Anchorage, Dillingham, Fairbanks, Homer, Kenai, Juneau, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Kotzebue and Mat-Su.

Rural Substance Abuse Counselors

Expand Rural Human Services Program: \$867,700 state funds

Currently 100 human service workers are working in 77 communities, helping residents deal with alcohol and drug abuse problems. These funds would expand the program to 18 more villages, placing approximately 20 substance abuse counselors in the communities where they are most needed.

Transitional Housing for Substance Abusers

Retain treatment success: \$250,000 in state funds and \$300,000 in Mental Health Trust funds

Individuals returning to smaller communities from out-of-town treatment programs are at risk of losing their sobriety without adequate community-based supports. Transitional housing will allow them to reunite with their families more quickly and to practice their new recovery skills in their old, familiar environment before returning to their own homes.

Enforcement and Interdiction

Alcoholic Beverage Control Investigation: \$131,000 in state funds

An additional investigator will strengthen enforcement of Alaska's alcoholic beverage laws and help deter violations through increased ABC Board presence and visibility. This will also cover costs of additional investigations and administrative hearings.

Related Services in *Smart Start / Strong Future*

The Governor's *Smart Start / Strong Future* initiative includes \$1.2 million to build treatment capacity so women on the wait list can enter treatment with their children. Another \$839,000 will expand the juvenile alcohol safety program beyond four pilot sites and provide treatment. Currently the felony DWI and mentally ill population (dual diagnosis) is the fastest growing group of probation/parole offenders. \$500,000 will be used to improve supervision and accountability programs to these offenders who are particularly at risk of re-offending and abusing or neglecting their children.

Understanding the FY2003 Budget – Stopping Alcohol Abuse

Dept		General Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	
		(dollars in thousands)			
	Reduce Alcohol Treatment Waitlists				
HSS	Statewide Dual Diagnosis Treatment	1,442.6		1,442.6	
HSS	Outpatient Treatment - Minimum Funding for Small Communities	1,062.0		1,062.0	
HSS	Adult Residential Treatment	471.8		471.8	
HSS	Restore Alcohol Safety Action Programs	470.0		470.0	Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Mat Su, Kenai, Dillingham, Homer, Ketchikan, Nome, Bethel and Barrow
HSS	Rural Substance Abuse Counselors	867.7		867.7	20 more counselors in villages
HSS	Transitional Housing for Substance Abusers	250.0	300.0	550.0	Mental Health Trust Authority Receipts.
	Enforcement and Interdiction				
Revenue	More ABC investigators and support	96.0		96.0	1 new investigator in Anchorage
Revenue	Increased ABC complaint investigation	35.0		35.0	Assistance to local law enforcement
	Total Alcohol Initiative	<u>4,695.1</u>	<u>300.0</u>	<u>4,995.1</u>	

Additional alcohol programs in the Smart Start / Strong Future Initiative

HSS	Juvenile Alcohol Treatment	718.0		718.0	
HSS	Juvenile ASAP	121.1		121.1	
HSS	Treatment for Women with Children	1,241.0		1,241.0	Plus Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities for Women and Children - \$750.0 in the capital budget
Corr	Dual Diagnosed Offenders with Children	<u>471.2</u>	<u>28.8</u>	<u>500.0</u>	Focus on dual diagnosed probationers and parolees with children
		2,551.3	28.8	2,580.1	